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Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Peru: draft resolution

Human rights and extreme poverty

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the International Bill of Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and the development goals contained therein, including the commitment to halve by 2015 the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it declared 17 October the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and 50/107 of 20 December 1995, by which it proclaimed the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Recalling also its resolution 57/211 of 18 December 2002 and its previous resolutions on human rights and extreme poverty, in which it reaffirmed that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them,

Recalling further its resolution 52/134 of 12 December 1997, in which it recognized that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights was essential for the understanding, promotion and protection of all human rights,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in each country of the world, regardless of its economic, social and cultural situation, and that the extent and manifestations of extreme poverty, such as hunger, trafficking in human beings,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

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disease, lack of adequate shelter, illiteracy and hopelessness, are particularly severe in developing countries, though acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/23 of 16 April 2004[2] and resolution 2004/7 of 9 August 2004 of Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,[3]

Welcoming the meeting of world leaders for action against hunger and poverty, convened on 20 September 2004 by the Presidents of Brazil, Chile and France and the President of the Government of Spain, with the support of the Secretary-General, and the resulting New York Declaration,

Recognizing that the eradication of extreme poverty is a major challenge within the process of globalization and requires coordinated and continued policies through decisive national action and international cooperation,

Reaffirming that, since the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and might, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life, its immediate alleviation and eventual eradication must remain a high priority for the international community,

Considering that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Noting with interest the extension of the mandate of the independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty for a period of two years,

1. *Reaffirms* that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process in the societies in which they live, in the promotion of human rights and in efforts to combat extreme poverty, and that it is essential for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups to be empowered to organize themselves and to participate in all aspects of political, economic and social life, in particular the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development;

3. *Emphasizes* that extreme poverty is a major issue to be addressed by Governments, civil society and the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, and in this context reaffirms that political commitment is a prerequisite for the eradication of poverty;

4. *Reaffirms* that the existence of widespread absolute poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile;

5. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the establishment of new, innovative financial

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[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 3* (E/2004/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[3] E/CN.4/2005/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/48, chap. II, sect. A.

mechanisms to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, eradicate poverty, attain sustainable development and strengthen their democratic systems;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitments to spare no effort to fight against extreme poverty, including the commitment contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger;

7. *Encourages*, in this regard, further discussion of innovative sources of finance to combat hunger and poverty, building, inter alia, on the discussion launched at the meeting of world leaders for action against hunger and poverty, held in New York on 20 September 2004;

8. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to continue to give appropriate attention to the question of human rights and extreme poverty;

9. *Notes with appreciation* that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has chosen the eradication of poverty as a cross-cutting theme of its strategy for 2002-2007;

10. *Requests* the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to submit a report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

11. *Calls upon* States, United Nations bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to give appropriate attention to the links between human rights and extreme poverty;

12. *Decides* to consider this question further at its sixty-first session, under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".